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Department of Anthropology August 2023
A&S Interdisciplinary Sciences Center
University of New Mexico

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Educational History

Ph.D. 2002 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Anthropology
M.A. 1996 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Anthropology
B.A. 1994 Cleveland State University, Anthropology
Previous: University of Hawaii, Hilo

Employment History

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico 2016-Present
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico 2010-2016
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico 2007-2010
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Wichita State University. 2004-2007
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Auburn University 2002-2004

Professional Recognition and Honors

Dumbarton Oak Research Library, Trustees of Harvard University. Residential Fellowship 2023-2024, Washington DC

Ancestors Lecture *A new view of Paleoindian and Archaic human ecology and archaeology in the tropical lowlands of Central America* Maxwell Museum, University of New Mexico, 2018

Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award, the Graduate School, Southern Illinois University, 2002.

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Graduate School Doctoral Fellowship 2000-2001, 2001-2002

Dumbarton Oaks Pre-Columbian Library, Short-term residency 1999

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Graduate School Doctoral Fellowship 1997 (Awarded but declined).

Graduate Paper of the Year Award. Department of Anthropology, SIUC 1997

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship 1997-2000.

National Science Foundation. Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention 1996

Active Collaborations

Yemane Asmerom lab UNM. Common era climate reconstruction (NSF supported)

Doug Kennett lab UCSB. Early diet in the Americas (NSF supported)

Cecil Lewis lab. UO. Oral microbiome and health in early humans (NSF supported)

David Reich lab. Harvard. Genetic history of the Maya (Templeton)

Mark Robinson lab Exeter UK. Holocene tropical forest structure and biodiversity (ERC-Horizons supported)

Amy Thompson Lab UT Austin. Machine learning for detecting settlement using lidar (NSF supported).

Christina Warriner lab. Harvard. Proteomics and human animal dynamics (funding planning stage).

Research Funding

Research Grants and Awards (External): Summary 2006-2020, NSF award total (as PI): **\$2,015,000**. Other funding (as PI) **\$1,400,000** Total external grants awarded (all PI roles): **>\$3,600,000**

Pending:

National Science Foundation. Lead PI/PD with Erin Ray. The Impact of Diet-shifts on Parental Investment During the Development of Neotropical Societies

External Awarded

32. National Science Foundation (DDIG). Lead PI/PD with Nadia Neff. Advancing biocultural and molecular studies of diet and nutrition among tropical agriculturalists (\$38,000)

31. Alphawood Foundation. Lead PI/PD Origins of the Maya: Reconstructing Early Holocene Human Ecology and Culture in the Southern Lowlands 12/2022 (\$75,000)

30. National Science Foundation. Role: Lead PI. Collaborative Research: Origins of food production in the northern neotropical lowlands. With DJ Kennett, R. George, and D. Piperno. \$327,492. 2022-2024, REU supplement (\$6,000) 2024-2025

29. National Science Foundation. Role: UNM PI. Collaborative Research: Applying 3D Deep Learning to Lidar Data for Automated Detection of Archaeological Sites in Tropical Regions. With H. Rissotto-Richards (UNL), A. Thompson (UT). \$299,300. 2022-2024

28. National Science Foundation. Role: Senior Collaborator. CHOMPER: Calculus and Hominid Oral Metagenomes for Pathogen Evolution Research. C. Lewis, T. Honap PIs. University of Oklahoma. \$422,196. 2020-2023.

27. Alphawood Foundation. Lead PI/PD Origins of the Maya: Reconstructing Early Holocene Human Ecology and Culture in the Southern Lowlands 2020-2022 (\$125,000)

26. Alphawood Foundation. Lead PI/PD Origins of the Maya: Reconstructing Early Holocene Human Ecology and Culture in the Southern Lowlands 2018-2020 (\$245,000)

25. National Science Foundation. PI/PD Doctoral Dissertation Research: Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award: Community Growth and Sustainability in Unstable Times \$30,273 (PI with RE Guerra, 2017-2020).

24. National Science Foundation. Collaborative Research: Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene Climate Change and Human Ecology in the Tropical Maya Lowlands. SBE1632061 \$276,000 (lead PI/PD with D.J. Kennett, Y.A. Asmerom, and T. Ryan, B. Culleton, and S. Newsome 2016-2020)

23. National Science Foundation, SBE-REU Award for Undergraduate Research, PI/PD 2017-2018, (\$6,000)

22. National Science Foundation. Doctoral Dissertation Research: Comparative Examination of the Process of Urban Development \$25,400 (PI with A.E. Thompson, 2016-2017).

21. School for Advanced Research. NSF Research Team Seminar *Linking the Past to the future: 2000 Years of Human Resilience and Socioecological Change in the Central American Tropics*. ~\$13,000 for travel for 10 participants (co-chair with Rebecca Zarger, 2016).

20. Alphawood Foundation. PI/PD Origins of the Maya: Reconstructing Early Holocene Human Ecology and Culture in the Southern Lowlands (2015-2018) \$394,674

19. In-Herit. Bi-directional Knowledge Exchange Between Maya Archaeologists & Communities. Co-PI with Rebecca Zarger and Kristina Baines 2013 (\$7500)

18. National Science Foundation, SBE-REU Award for Undergraduate Research, 2012-13, (\$5,975)

18. Alphawood Foundation, Uxbenká Archaeological Project, 2012-2014 (\$309,800)

17. National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: Environmental Variability, Settlement Decisions, and the Status Differentiation at the Classic Period Maya Polity of Uxbenka' (with co-PI Ethan Kalosky). 2011 (\$19,820)
16. Alphawood Foundation, Uxbenká Archaeological Project, 2011 (\$29,800)
15. Alphawood Foundation, Uxbenká Archaeological Project, 2010 (\$123,750)
14. National Science Foundation, SBE-REU Award for Undergraduate Research, 2009, (\$5,975)
13. National Science Foundation, HSD-REU Award for Undergraduate Research, 2009, (\$4,000)
12. Alphawood Foundation, Uxbenká Archaeological Project, 2009, (\$53,571)
11. National Science Foundation, HSD (Human and Social Dynamics Program). Collaborative Research: (AOC) Development and resilience of complex socioeconomic systems: A theoretical model and case study from the Maya Lowlands. (Lead PI's D Kennett (UO), K Prufer, (UNM) Bruce Winterhalder (UCD), Rebecca Zarger (USF), HSD 0827305, 2008-2013, \$899,234.
10. National Science Foundation, Archaeology Research Award, PI/PD, 'Uxbenká Archaeological Project' BCS-0620445 2006-2010 (\$123,830).
9. Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. 'Uxbenká Archaeological Project' FAMSI-06066, 2006 (\$9,950)
8. Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. 'Uxbenká Archaeological Project' FAMSI-05070, 2005 (\$9,945)
7. National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant 'Maya Mountains Ritual Caves Project' co-PI with Don S. Rice. SBR-9901265, 1999 (\$11,400)
6. Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. 'Conservation of a Wooden Figurine from Xmuqlebal Xheton' Cave in Southern Belize. FAMSI-99003, 1999 (\$1,350)
5. Subcontract Award, Cleveland State University. Keith M. **Prufer** and Don S. Rice, 'Conservation, Analysis and Carbon Dating of Wood Artifacts', 1999 (\$7,500)

4. Subcontract Award, Cleveland State University. Keith M. **Prufer**, Don S. Rice, David J. Goldstein, and Lee A. Newsom 'Conservation of a Wood Bench from Belize', 1999 (\$5,500)

3. Sigma Xi - The Scientific Research Society. Grant in-Aid-of Research. "Maya Mountains Ritual Caves Project", 1995 (\$400)

2. Explorers Club of New York, Research Grant, 'Maya Mountains Palynology Project', 1994 (\$1000)

1. Sigma Xi - The Scientific Research Society, Grant in-Aid-of Research, 'Maya Mountains Palynology Project', 1994 (\$400)

Research and other Funding (Internal):

UNM- Program for Enhancing Research Capacity (**PERC**). KM Prufer (PI) and K Schleher (co-PI) Purchase of Bruker Tracer 5 portable hand-held XRF instrument 2022 \$42,650

Latin American and Iberian Institute funding from UNM Title VI-A Grant Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (UISFL) for undergraduate research experiences in Belize, summer 2008, \$4,000

Internal proposal to LAll for funds to support travel for human rights attorney Prof. James Anaya (United Nations and University of Arizona) as part of the Anthropology Colloquia Series \$300

Wichita State University Summer Faculty Research Grant. 'Uxbenká Archaeological Project' (\$4,000) 2006

Wichita State University ARCS Faculty Research Award. 'Uxbenká Archaeological Project' (\$4,500) 2005

Cleveland State University, College of Arts and Sciences. Research Grant. 'Ethnolinguistic Study of Kekchi English in Southern Belize' (\$500) 1994

Research Products (books, articles, reports, presentations)

Published Books:

Brady, JE. and KM. **Prufer**, editors *In the Maw of the Earth Monster: Studies of Mesoamerican Ritual Cave Use*. Linda Schele Series in Precolumbian Art and Archaeology, 438 pages, University of Texas Press, Austin 2005

KM **Prufer** and JE. Brady, editors *Stone Houses and Earth Lords: Maya Religion in the Cave Context*. David Carasco Series Mesoamerican Worlds, 392 pages, University Press of Colorado, Boulder 2005 (Second edition 2021)

Published Articles:

76. Ray, E., Neff, N, Lynch P, Kennett D, Prufer KM. The Impact of a Hypothesized 4.2 kybp Aridification Event on the Development of Early Farming Diets in the Maya Region. *Quaternary International*. 2023

75. T. Braun, Sebastian F. M. Breitenbach, Vanessa Skiba, Franziska Lechleitner, Erin Ray, Lisa M. Baldini, Victor J. Polyak, James U. L. Baldini, Douglas J. Kennett, Keith M. Prufer, and Norbert Marwan. Decline in seasonal predictability potentially destabilized Classic Maya societies. *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*. 2023

74. **Prufer, KM**, AE Thompson, A Wickert, DJ Kennett. Demographic Growth and Decline Track Climate Change at a Classic Maya Center. **Progress in Physical Geography**. 2023. DOI: [10.1177/03091333221112359](https://doi.org/10.1177/03091333221112359)

73. Waldman, S., D. Backenroth, É. Harney, S. Flohr, N. C. Neff, G. Buckley, H. Fridman, A. Akbari, N. Rohland, S. Mallick, J. Cano Nistal J. Yu, N. Barzilai, I. Peter, G. Atzmon, H. Ostrer, T. Lencz, Y. E. Maruvka, M. Lämmerhirt, L. V. Rutgers, V. Renson, **K.M. Prufer**, S. Schiffels, H. Ringbauer, K. Sczech, S. Carmi, D. Reich. Genome-wide data from medieval German Jews show that the Ashkenazi founder event pre-dated the 14th century. **Cell**, 2022

72. Johnson, L.R.M., Drake, B.L., Brandt, S.A., **Prufer, K.M.** and Chase, A.F., 2022. Reproducibility and Validity of Portable ED-XRF Instruments: A Comparison of Spectral and Quantitative Results from Belizean and Ethiopian Obsidian. **Advances in Portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry** (pp. 424-446).

71. AE Thompson, JP Walden, ASZ Chase, SR Hutson, DB Marken, BCap, EC Fries, MR Guzman Piedrasanta, T Hare, S Horn III, GJ. Micheletti, S Montgomery, J Munson, H Richards-Rissetto, K Shaw-Müller, JJ Awe, MK Brown, CE Ebert, A Ford, JA Hoggarth, H Moyes, T Powis, **KM Prufer**, J Yaeger, BA Houk, AF Chase, and DZ Chase. Ancient Maya Neighborhoods: Testing Kernel Density for Neighborhood Identification Across the Maya Lowlands. *PlosOne*. 2022

70. DJ Kennett, M Masson, CP Lope, S Serafin, RJ George, T Spencer, J Hoggarth, BJ. Culleton, TK Harper, **KM Prufer**, S Milbrath, B Russell, EU González, WC McCool, VV

Aquino, E Paris, JH. Curtis, N Marwan, M Zhang, Y Asmerom, VJ Polyak, SA Carolin, DH James, A Mason, G Henderson, M Brenner, JUL Baldini, SFM Breitenbach, DA Hodell. Drought-Induced Civil Conflict Among the Ancient Maya. **Nature Communications**, 2022. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-31522-x%20>

69. DJ. Kennett*, M Lipson*, **KM. Prufer***, D Mora-Marín, RJ. George, N Rohland, Mark Robinson, WR. Trask, HHJ. Edgar, EC. Hill, EE. Ray, P Lynch, E Moes, L O'Donnell, TK. Harper, EJ. Kate, J Ramos, J Morris, S Gutierrez, TM. Ryan, BJ. Culleton, JJ. Awe, David Reich*. Convergent Genetic, Linguistic, and Archaeological Evidence for an Ancient Migration of Farmers into the Maya Region. **Nature Communications** (*corresponding authors). DOI: 10.1038/s41467-022-29158-y

68. O. Kweicein, T Braun; CF Brunello; P Faulkner; N Hausmann; G Helle; JA Hoggarth; M Ionita; C Jazwa; S Kelmelis; N Marwan; C Nava-Fernandez; C Nehme; T Opel; J L. Oster; A Perşoiu; C Petrie; **KM Prufer**; SM. Saarni; A Wolf; SFM. Breitenbach. What we talk about when we talk about seasonality - A transdisciplinary review. **Earth Science Reviews** (invited contribution) (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2021.103843>.

67. **Prufer, KM**, M. Robinson, DJ Kennett. Terminal Pleistocene through Middle Holocene Occupations in Southeastern Mesoamerica: Linking Ecology and Culture in the Context of Neotropical Foragers and Early Farmers. **Ancient Mesoamerica** 32(3): 439-460 2021. DOI: 10.1017/S0956536121000195

66. Thompson, AE, G Feinman, **KM Prufer**. Inequality and the Financing of Classic Maya Political Power. **Journal of Archaeological Science**. doi/10.1016/j.jas.2021.105441. 2021

65. Thompson AE, G. Feinman, **KM Prufer**. Assessing Classic Maya Multi-Scalar Household Inequality in Southern Belize. **PlosOne**. 16(3), e0248169. 2021

64. Monteleone, K, AE Thompson, and **KM Prufer**. Virtual Cultural Landscapes: Geospatial Visualizations of Past Environments. **Archaeological Prospection**. Doi 10.1002/arp.1830 2021

63. Thompson AE and **KM Prufer**. Household Inequality, Community Formation, and Land Tenure in Classic Period Lowland Maya Society. **Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory** 2021 doi.org/10.1007/s10816-020-09505-3

62. Smith, ME., SG. Ortman, J Lobo, C Ebert, AE. Thompson, **KM Prufer**, R Liendo Stuardo, and RM. Rosenswig. The Low-Density Urban Systems of the Classic Period Maya and Izapa: Insights from Settlement Scaling Theory. **Latin American Antiquity** 2021 doi:10.1017/laq.2020.80.

61. Kennett, DJ* **KM Prufer***, BJ Culleton, RJ George, M Robinson, WR Trask, G Buckley, E Moes, E Kate, TK Harper, L O'Donnell, E Ray, EK Hill, A Alsgaard, C Merriman, C Meredith, HJH Edgar, and S Gutierrez. Early Isotopic Evidence for Maize as a Staple Grain in the Americas. *Science Advances* 23, eaba3245 DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.aba3245, 2020 (*corresponding authors)
60. **KM, Prufer** Nuevas perspectivas sobre ocupaciones paleoindias y arcaicas en Belice”, *Arqueología Mexicana*, núm. 165, 2020 pp. 32-34.
59. **KM, Prufer**, M. Robinson, and DJ Kennett. Recent research in the Bladen Nature Reserve: the preceramic occupations of Mayahak Cab Pek and Saki Tzul Rockshelters. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology*, Vol. 17, 2020, pp. 199-208.
58. Jordan, J. and **KM Prufer**. Identifying Local and Non-Local Pottery in Three Tombs at Uxbenká, Toledo District: Results of Thin Section Analysis. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology*, Vol. 17, 2020, pp. 209-219.
57. Jordan, J. and **KM Prufer**. Pottery Production in a Limestone-Poor Region of the Maya Lowlands: Thin Section Petrography and Scanning Electron Microscopy-Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (SEM-EDS) Analysis on Pottery from Uxbenká, Southern Belize. *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*, 2020
56. Y. Asmerom, J. U. L. Baldini, **K. M. Prufer**, V. Polyak, H. E. Ridley, V. V. Aquino, L. M. Baldini, S. F. M. Breitenbach, C. G. Macpherson, & D.J. Kennett. Intertropical Convergence Zone Variability in the Neotropics During the Common Era. *Science Advances*. 7(6) eaax3644, 2020
55. **Prufer, K.M.**, Alsgaard, A.V., Robinson, M., Meredith, C.R., Culleton, B.J., Dennehy, T., Magee, S., Huckell, B.B., Stemp, W.J., Awe, J.J. and Capriles, J.M. Linking late Paleoindian stone tool technologies and populations in North, Central and South America. *PlosOne*, 14(7), p.e0219812, 2019
54. Lechleitner, FA., SQ. Lang, N Haghypour, C McIntyre, JUL. Baldini, **KM Prufer**, TI Eglinton. Towards organic carbon isotope records from stalagmites: coupled $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and ^{14}C analysis using wet chemical oxidation. *Radiocarbon*. 61(3), pp.749-764, 2019
53. Thompson AE and **KM Prufer**. Archaeological Research in Southern Belize at Uxbenká and Ix Kuku'il. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 16: 311-322, 2019
52. C Posth, N Nakatsuka, I Lazaridis, P Skoglund, S Mallick, TC Lamnidis, N Rohland,

K Nägele, N Adamski, E Bertolini, N Broomandkhoshbacht, A Cooper, BJ Culleton, T Ferraz, M Ferry, A Furtwängler, W Haak, K Harkins, TK Harper, T Hünemeier, AM Lawson, B Llamas, M Michel, E Nelson, J Oppenheimer, N Patterson, S Schiffels, J Sedig, K Stewardson, S Talamo, C Wang, J Hublin, M Hubbe, K Harvati, AN Delaunay, J Beier, M Francken, P Kaulicke, H Reyes-Centeno, K Rademaker, WR Trask, M Robinson, SM Gutierrez, **KM Prufer**, DC Salazar-Garcia, EN Chim, LMP Gomes, M Lopes Alves, A Liryo, M Inglez, RE Oliveira, DV Bernardo, A Barioni, V Wesolowski, NA Scheifler, MA Rivera, CR Plens, PG Messineo, L Figuti, D Corach, C Scabuzzo, S Eggers, P DeBlasis, M Reindel, C Méndez, G Politis, E Tomasto-Cagigao, DJ Kennett, A Strauss, L Fehren-Schmitz, J Krause, D Reich, 2018. Reconstructing the Deep Population History of Central and South America. *Cell*, 175(5): 1185-1197.

51. **Prufer, KM** 2018, Preceramic Cultural History in Southern Belize and its Environmental Context. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 15, pp. 241-251

50. Robinson, M., De Souza, J.G., Maezumi, S.Y., Cárdenas, M., Pessenda, L., **Prufer, K.**, Corteletti, R., Scunderlick, D., Mayle, F.E., Blasis, P. and Iriarte, J., 2018. Uncoupling human and climate drivers of late Holocene vegetation change in southern Brazil. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 8(1), p.7800.

49. Thompson, A.E., Meredith, C.R. and **Prufer, KM**, 2018. Comparing geostatistical analyses for the identification of neighborhoods, districts, and social communities in archaeological contexts: A case study from two ancient Maya centers in southern Belize. *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 97, pp.1-13.

48. Smirnov, D. S. E. B. Breitenbach, F. Georg, F. Lechleitner, **K. M. Prufer**, J. Baldini, N. Marwan, J. Kurths. A regime shift in the Sun-Climate connection with the end of the Medieval Climate Anomaly. *Nature Scientific Reports*. 2017

47. Lechleitner, F.A., T. Dittmar, J.U.L. Baldini, **KM Prufer**, and T.I. Eglinton. Molecular signatures of dissolved organic matter in a tropical karst system. *Organic Geochemistry*, 2017

46. **Prufer, KM**, C. Meredith, A. Alsgaard, T. Denehey, and D. J. Kennett. The Paleoindian Chronology of Tzib Te Yux Rockshelter in the Rio Blanco Valley of Southern Belize. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 14, 2017

45. Lechleitner, F.A., S.E. Breitenbach, H. Ridley, Y. Asmerom, K. Rehfeld, **KM Prufer**, D.J. Kennett, V. Aquino, V. Polyak, N. Marwan, G. Haug, T Eglinton, J. Baldini. A persistent low- to mid-latitude hydrologic seesaw over the past millennium. *Nature Scientific Reports*. 2017

44. Jordan, J. and **KM Prufer**. Identifying Domestic Ceramic Production in the Maya Lowlands: A Case Study from Uxbenká, Belize. *Latin American Antiquity*, 2017

43. **Prufer, KM**, A.E. Thompson, C. Meredith, B.J. Culleton, J. Jordan, B., C.E. Ebert, B. Winterhalder, and D.J. Kennett. The Classic Period Maya transition from an ideal free to an ideal despotic settlement system at the polity of Uxbenká. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 45, 2017

42. L. Baldini, J.U.L. Baldini, J. McElwaine, A. Frappier, Y. Asmerom, K. Liu, **KM Prufer**, H. Ridley, V. Polyak, D.J. Kennett, C. Macpherson, V. Aquino, J.J. Awe, S. Breitenbach. Persistent northward North Atlantic tropical cyclone track migration over the past five centuries. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 2016

41. Lechleitner, F.A., J.U.L. Baldini, S.F.M. Breitenbach, J. Fohlmeister, C. McIntyre, B. Goswami, R.A. Jamieson, T.S. van der Voort, **KM Prufer**, N. Marwan, B.J. Culleton, D.J. Kennett, Y. Asmerom, V. Polyak, T.I. Eglinton. Hydrological and climatological controls on radiocarbon concentrations in a tropical stalagmite. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 2016

40. Lechleitner, F.A., T. Dittmar, J.U.L. Baldini, **KM Prufer**, and T.I. Eglinton. Molecular signatures of dissolved organic matter in a tropical karst system. *Organic Geochemistry*, 2016

39. Stemp, W.J., J.J. Awe, **KM Prufer**, C.G.B. Helmke. Design and function of Lowe and Sawmill points from the preceramic period of Belize. *Latin American Antiquity* 2016.

38. Jamieson, R. A., J.U.L. Baldini, M.J. Brett, J. Taylor, H.E. Ridley, C.J. Ottley, **KM Prufer**, J.A. Wassenburg, D. Scholz, S.F.M. Breitenbach. Intra- and inter-annual uranium concentration variability in a Belizean stalagmite controlled by prior aragonite precipitation: A new tool for reconstructing hydro-climate using aragonitic speleothems. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 2016.

37. **Prufer KM** and A. E. Thompson. Using LiDAR and Remote Sensing to Assess 2000 Years of Human Impacts on the Landscape. Invited article for a special issue of *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. 2016

36. Thompson, A.E. And **KM Prufer**. Preliminary Findings from Ix Kuku'il, Toledo District, Belize. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* 13: 219-228. 2016

35. Moyes, H., M. Robinson, and **KM Prufer**. The Kayuko Mound Group: A Festival Site in Southern Belize. *Antiquity* 2016

34. Ridley H. E., J. U.L. Baldini, **KM Prufer**, I.W. Walczak, S.F.M. Breitenbach. High resolution monitoring of a tropical cave system reveals dynamic ventilation and

hydrologic resilience to seismic activity *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* 77(3): 183-199, 2015

33. **Prufer, KM**, A. E. Thompson, D. J. Kennett. Evaluating Airborne LiDAR for Detecting Settlements and Modified Landscapes in Disturbed Tropical Environments at Uxbenká, Belize. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 57, 2015.

32. Thompson, A. E., **Prufer, KM** Airborne LiDAR for Detecting Ancient Settlements, and Landscape Modifications at Uxbenká, Belize. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* . 12, 251-259, 2015

31. Ridley, H. Y. Asmerom, S. Breitenbach, V. Aquino, K. **Prufer**, B. Culleton, V. Polyak, F. Lechleitner, D.J. Kennett, M. Zhang , N. Marwan, C. Macpherson, L. Baldini, T. Xiao, J. Awe, G. Haug Anthropogenic forcing of intertropical convergence zone position. *Nature Geosciences*, 8(2) 2015

30. Ebert, C E., K. M. **Prufer**, M. J. Macri, B. Winterhalder, D. J. Kennett. Terminal Long Count Dates and the Disintegration of Classic Period Maya Polities. *Ancient Mesoamerica*, 2014

29. Walsh, M., **KM Prufer**, B.J. Culleton, and D.J. Kennett. A late Holocene paleoenvironmental reconstruction from Agua Caliente, southern Belize, linked to cultural change at the Maya polity of Uxbenká. *Quaternary Research*, 2014.

28. Nazaroff, A. J, A. Baysal, Y. Çiftçi, & K. M. **Prufer**. Resilience or Redundance? Resource Networks and the Neolithic Chert Economy at Çatalhöyük, Turkey. *European Journal of Archaeology*. 2014 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/1461957114Y.0000000081>

27. **Prufer, KM** and AE Thompson. Settlements as Neighborhoods and Districts at Uxbenká: The Social Landscape of Maya Community. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* , 11, 2014

26. Moyes, H and **KM Prufer**. The Geopolitics of Emerging Maya Rulers: A Case Study of *Kayuko Naj Tunich*, a Foundational Shrine at Uxbenká, Southern Belize. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, 62(2): 225-248, 2013

25. Thompson, AE, **KM Prufer**. Shifting Dynamics in the use of Space at Uxbenká. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* , 10: 2013

24. Aquino, VV, **KM Prufer**, and DJ Kennett. A Re-evaluation of Site Core Occupation at Uxbenká. *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology* , 10: 2013

23. Kennett, D. J., S. F. M. Breitenbach, V. V. Aquino, Y. Asmerom, J. Awe, J. U.L. Baldini, P. Bartlein, B. J. Culleton, C. Ebert, C. Jazwa, M. J. Macri, N. Marwan, V. Polyak, K. M. **Prufer**, H. E. Ridley, H. Sodemann, B. Winterhalder, G. H. Haug. Development and Disintegration of Maya Political Systems in Response to Climate Change. **Science**. 338: 788-791, 2012
22. Breitenbach, SFM., K Rehfeld, B Goswam, JUL. Baldini, HE Ridley, D Kennett, **KM Prufer**, VV Aquino, Y Asmerom, VJ Polyak, H Cheng, J Kurths, and N Marwan. Constructing Proxy Age-Models (COPRA). **Climate of the Past** 8: 1765-1779, 2012
21. Culleton, BJ, **KM Prufer**, and DJ Kennett. A Bayesian AMS 14C Chronology of the Classic Maya Urban Center of Uxbenká, Belize. **Journal of Archaeological Science**. 39: 1572-1586, 2012
20. Willa R. Trask, Lori Wright and Keith M. **Prufer**. Isotopic evidence for migration and subsistence in the Southeastern Maya periphery: Preliminary evidence from Uxbenká, Toledo District, Belize. **Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology** 9: 61-75, 2012
19. Kalosky, Ethan and Keith M. **Prufer**. Recent results of settlement survey and hinterland household excavations at the classic period site of Uxbenká, Toledo district, Belize. **Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology** 9: 255-276 2012.
18. Ebert, Claire, Keith M. **Prufer**, and Douglas J. Kennett. Maya Monuments and Spatial Statistics: a GIS-Based Examination of the Terminal Classic Period Maya Collapse. **Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology** 9: 91-107 2012.
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L. Pacheco-Cobos, A Thompson, C. Cortez, B. Winterhalder and K. M. Prufer The Effects of Households and Labor Requirements on Intracommunity Boundary Formation, Settlement Choices, and Neighborhood Functions in Modern and Prehistoric Communities. (43rd Annual meeting Society for American Archaeology, March 2019)

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Unravelling the Natural and Anthropogenic Drivers of North Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Track Position since the Little Ice Age. L. Baldini, JUL Baldini, J. McElwaine, AB Frappier, Y. Asmerom, K. Liu, **KM Prufer**, H. Ridley, VJ Polyak, DJ Kennett, C. Macpherson, VV Aquino, J. Awe, and SFM. Breitenbach. Meetings of the American Geophysical Union, New Orleans, December 2017

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Rethinking Lowe as a Diagnostic of the Late Archaic: New Chronological Date from Southern Belize K. M. **Prufer**, A. Alsgaard, C. Meredith, and T. Dennehy 14th Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, 2016.

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Linkages Between Climate and Environmental Changes Since 500 BCE: Assessing the Roles of Micro and Macro Level Changes in the Tropical Lowlands. CCS15 (Conference on Complex Systems 2015). Tempe AZ, Sept 2015.

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Ecology, Land use, and Despotism from the Past to the Future in the Southeastern Lowlands. **KM Prufer**. IHOPE-Maya Society as a Complex System. Arizona State University School of Sustainability, Complex Adaptive Systems. 2014.

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Late Holocene ¹⁴C Variations Recorded by a Speleothem from Yok Balum Cave, Belize Lechleitner FA, McIntyre C, Breitenbach SFM, Polyak V, Asmerom Y, **Prufer KM**, Culleton BJ, Kennett DJ, Baldini JUL & Eglinton TI. Goldschmidt 2014, San Francisco, 2014

Discussant. Symposium: Lighting Dark Passages Part 1: Celebrating Thirty Years of James E. Brady's Contributions to Cave Archaeology. (79th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin Tx), 2014

Tropical Sustainability from an Ancient Context. **KM Prufer** (IHOPE Maya Conference, University of Texas at Austin) 2014.

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Discussant, Symposium: The Light And Dark Sides of Las Cuevas, Belize. (79th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin Tx) 2014

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Climatic and Anthropogenic causes of erosion at Uxbenká, Belize. Christopher Merriman, Keith **Prufer** and Megan Walsh. (79th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin Tx) 2014

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Polyak, **KM Prufer**, H.E. Ridley, H. Sodemann, B. Winterhalder. PAGES, Goa, India, Feb 2013.

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Societies in the Tropical Lowlands of Mesoamerica. Keith **Prufer**, Vernon Scarborough, Arlen Chase, Diane Z. Chase, Rafael Cobos, Nicholas, Dunning, Joel D. Gunn, Scott L. Fedick, Vilma Fialko, Gyles Iannone, David Lentz, Rodrigo Liendo, Lisa Lucero, Jeremy A. Sabloff, Joseph Tainter, Fred Valdez, Jr., and Sander van der Leeuw. (Resilience 2011, Arizona State University) 2011

Recent Results of Settlement Survey and Hinterland Household Excavations at Uxbenka, Toledo District, Belize. Ethan Kalosky and Keith M. **Prufer**. (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Lowlands, Belize City, Belize) 2011

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Agriculture in the Hawaiian Islands. McCoy, Mark, Michael Graves, Greg Asner and Keith **Prufer** (75th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, St. Louis Mo) 2010.

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Modeling Complex Human Behavioral Responses to Climate Change in the Eastern Periphery of the Maya Lowlands. Keith **Prufer**, Brendan Culleton, Bruce Winterhalder, Jaime Awe and Douglas Kennett (74th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta GA), 2009

Examining the Validity of PXRf for Obsidian Sourcing in the Maya Lowlands. Adam Nazaroff, B. Lee Drake, and Keith **Prufer**. (74th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta GA), 2009

Uxbenká Settlement Survey: Mapping Architecture in the Eastern Periphery of the Maya Lowlands. Ethan Kalosky and Keith M. **Prufer**. (poster presented at the 74th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta GA), 2009

Discussant: What is New in Mesoamerican Cave Archaeology: The Implications of New Field Discoveries for Method and Theory, Part II. (74th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta GA), 2009

Archaeometry at Uxbenká: How Science is Improving Our Understanding of the Rise and Fall of Polities in Southern Belize. Keith M. **Prufer**, Brendan Culleton, and Valorie Aquino. (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Lowlands, Belize City, Belize), 2009

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Discussant: Electronic Symposium: Recent Advances in Mesoamerican Cave Archaeology, (73rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin TX), 2008.

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Management Features at Uxbenká, Keith M. **Prufer**, Brendan Culleton, and Douglas Kennett. (73rd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin TX), 2008.

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Political Structure and History in Southern Belize. Geoffrey Braswell and Keith M. **Prufer** (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Lowlands, San Ignacio, Belize), 2008

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The Canoe in the Cave: A Case for a Burial Shrine in Southern Belize. Holley Moyes, Keith M. **Prufer**, and Bethany Myers (72nd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin TX), 2007

Santa Cruz and Uxbenká: Community consultation, education, and capacity building, Shoshaunna Parks, Dr. Keith M. **Prufer**, and Dr. Rebecca Zarger (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Lowlands, San Ignacio, Belize), 2007

Early Political Dynamics at Uxbenká. Andrew Kindon and Keith M. **Prufer** (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Lowlands, San Ignacio, Belize), 2007

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Sacred Geography and Mountain Caves in the Highlands of the Lowlands (70th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Salt Lake City, UT), 2005

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Reevaluating the role of "Domestic" Ceramics in Ceremonial Cave Contexts (69th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Montreal Quebec) 2004

Caves and Rockshelters in Ohio, Olaf H. **Prufer** and Keith M. **Prufer**, (69th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Montreal Quebec) 2004.

The Early Classic in Southern Belize: A Regional View from Uxbenká. (Belize Archaeology Symposium: Archaeological Investigations in the Eastern Woodlands. Belize City, Belize), 2004

Discussant. Symposium: Social Construction of Space in Ancient America: Exploring Sacred, Ritual, Celestial, and Earthly Landscapes and Architecture. C. Kristin-Graham and L. Amrhein, organizers (68th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Milwaukee, WI), 2003

Wood of the Gods: The Role of Pine (*Pinus sp.*) in Ancient Maya Cave Rituals” Christopher Morehart, Keith **Prufer** and David Lentz (Paper presented at the 68th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Milwaukee, WI), 2003

Landscapes Made Sacred: Communities, Caves, and Ceremonial Circuits in Southern Belize. (Paper presented at the 68th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Milwaukee, WI), 2003

Replicating the Sacred Landscape: The Ce'en at Muklebal Tzul” **Prufer**, Keith M. and Andrew Kindon, (Paper presented at the 67th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Denver Co.), 2002

“New Perspectives on Maya Freshwater Shell Exploitation” Halperin, Christina, Sergio Garza, Keith M. **Prufer**, James E. Brady (Paper presented at the 67th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Denver Co.), 2002.

“Maya Mountain Rockshelter Burials: Nearer to the Gods?” Saul, Julie, Keith M. **Prufer**, Frank Saul (Paper presented at the 67th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Denver Co.), 2002

“Caves and Communities in the Maya Mountains of Southern Belize” (Paper presented at the 66th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA) 2001

“The Maya Mountains Archaeological Project 1992 - 2000: A Regional Investigation of Late Classic Settlement and Economy” **Prufer**, Keith M. and Phil Wanyerka. (Paper presented at the 66th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA) 2001

Together in Death: A Family Plot? Saul, Julie, Frank Saul and Keith M. **Prufer** (Paper presented at the 66th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, LA) 2001

“Investigations of Non-Elite Rockshelter Burials in the Maya Mountains of Southern Belize.” (Paper presented at the 64th annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Chicago, Illinois) 1999.

“The CE Determination of Theobromine and Caffeine in Samples of Archeological Interest” Hurst Jeffrey W., Stanley M. Tarka, Keith M. **Prufer**, and Peter S. Dunham (Paper presented at PittCon 98, New Orleans, March 1-6, 1998)

En la Cumbre del Clásico: Descubrimientos Recientes en la Montaña Maya en el Sur de Belice. Dunham, Peter S. and Keith M. **Prufer**, (Paper presented at XI Simposio de Investigaciones Arqueológicas en Guatemala, Guatemala City) 1998

“Sacred Underground Spaces and Ritual Specialists: Cave Utilization in the Maya Mountains of Southern Belize.” (Paper presented at the 96th annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC) 1997

“Pilgrimages for the Dead: Early Classic Mortuary Caves of Southern Belize.” (Paper presented at the 62nd annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, Nashville, TN) 1997

“Caves and Crystalmancy: Evidence for the Use of Crystals in Ancient Maya Religion.” **Prufer**, Keith M. and James E. Brady (Paper presented at the 96th annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC) 1997

“Geology of the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project” Brooks, William E., Peter S. Dunham, and Keith M. **Prufer** (Paper presented at a meeting of the Colorado Scientific Society) 1995

“Geology of the Maya Mountains Archaeological Project” Brooks, William E., Peter S. Dunham, and Keith M. **Prufer** (Poster and Abstracts of the Geological Society of America meetings) 1995

“Recent Cave Investigations in the Southern Maya Mountains of Belize”, C.A. (Paper presented at the First International Symposium of Maya Archaeology, San Ignacio, Belize.) 1995

Invited Lectures:

Prufer, KM. The Search for the Earliest Ancestors of the Maya: The Earliest Population Structure and the Origins of Farming. Pre-Columbian Society of Washington DC.

Prufer, KM. Untangling the complex history of early farming and farmers in tropical Mesoamerica. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library. Washington DC. Oct. 2023.

Terminal Pleistocene through Middle Holocene Occupations in Southeastern Mesoamerica. Albuquerque Archaeological Society. Sept. 2021.

New Perspectives on Early Human Adaptations in the Neotropics of Mesoamerica. KM Prufer and DJ Kennett. Mesoamerica Meetings 2021. The Mesoamerican Center. University of Texas, Austin.

Radiocarbon in Ancient Belize. Radiocarbon Universe Webinar Series, Pennsylvania State University, Institute of Energy and the Environment. June 2020.

A new view of Paleoindian and Archaic human ecology and archaeology in the tropical lowlands of Central America. Ancestors Lecture, Maxwell Museum, January 2018.

Holocene environments and people in Central America. UNM LAll Lightning Lounge. November 2017.

Early Holocene cultural change in the tropics of Central America. Exeter University, Department of Archaeology. October 2017

Holocene climate and cultural change in the tropics of Central America: The Maya and their ancestors. Durham University Department of Earth Science lecture series. September 2017.

Climate and cultural change in the tropics of Central America: The Maya and their ancestors. Bochum University Department of Earth Science lecture series. September 2017.

13,000 Years of Tipping Points and Phase Shifts: Cultural Change and Landscape Transformation in the Evolution of the Río Blanco (and Bladen) Valleys of Southern Belize. Tulane University Mesoamerican Research Institute. February 2017

Earliest Humans in the Tropics of Central America: The Ecology of Lowlands Hunters and Gatherers. Southwest Seminars, Santa Fe, November 2016

New data on early human occupations in neotropical Central America. UNM D2K (Data to Knowledge) Symposium, La Sevilletta Research Center. September 2016.

Environmental Change and Complex Societies. Invited lecture. Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. January 2012.

Environmental Archaeology and the Ancient Maya. Invited lecture, Environmental Studies, University of Southern California, November 2011.

Costly Signaling Theory and Pre-Columbian Cave Use in the Maya Lowlands. Society for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies. California State University, Los Angeles. October 2011

The Politics of Darkness: Elite Transformations of Space as Costly Signals of Power and Authority. The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. September 25th 2010

The Maya Collapse in Social and Ecological Context. Environmental Studies Program, University of Southern California, November 4, 2008.

In the Maw of the Earth Monster, History and Religious Studies, University of New Hampshire, April 14, 2005.